

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully reviewed this Application in light of the Office Action mailed March 26, 2003 (Paper No. 6). Claims 1-12 are pending in this Application. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) and Claims 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Claims 4, 7 and 9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claims. Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 9 to further define various features of Applicant's invention. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 10-12 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains to make and/or use the invention.

Specifically, the Examiner states that "a heating source operably coupled to the second recess . . . is unsupported in the specification" (Paper No. 6, Page 2). Applicant respectfully submits that the Specification describes a heating source coupled to the second recess. (Page 6, Lines 15-17). Applicant submits that Claims 10-12 meet the requirements of section 112, first paragraph. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections to Claims 10-12.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1, 5, 6 and 8 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,343,012 issued to Walter N. Hardy et al. ("Hardy").

Hardy discloses a method and apparatus for controlling the temperature of a thin film fabrication substrate. Substrate 14 covers first and second regions 16, 18 and gas in first region 16 maintains substrate 14 at a uniform temperature. (Col. 4, Lines 30-52 and Figure 2).

Claim 1 recites an apparatus comprising, among other elements, "a recess disposed proximate a center region of the bottom of the first recess."

Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references fail to disclose each and every element of Applicant's invention. Hardy fails to teach an apparatus for baking a substrate comprising "a recess disposed proximate a center region of the bottom of the first recess," as recited in amended Claim 1. The cited reference fails to disclose the recited limitations and, therefore, cannot anticipate Claim 1.

Given that Claims 5, 6 and 8 depend from Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 5, 6 and 8 are allowable. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow Claims 1, 5, 6 and 8.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2 and 3 stand rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hardy.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from and provide further patentable limitations to allowable Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider, withdraw the rejections and allow Claims 2 and 3.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates Examiner's careful review of the Application and indication that Claims 4, 7 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In light of the remarks above, Applicant believes that Claims 4, 7 and 9 have been placed in condition for allowance.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant would like to bring to the Examiner's attention that Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement on March 13, 2003 but believes that it was not forwarded to the Examiner for consideration prior to the issuance of the present Office Action mailed March 26, 2003. Applicant also filed an Information Disclosure Statement and PTO Form 1449 on February 11, 2002, which was not considered in this Office Action. Applicant believes that these Information Disclosure Statements and PTO Forms 1449 were filed and submitted in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98. Applicant respectfully requests that these Information Disclosure Statements be considered and cited in the examination of

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the above-referenced application. Applicant attaches a copy of the Information Disclosure Statements and PTO Forms 1449 filed March 13, 2003 and February 11, 2002 for the Examiner's convenience and a copy of the postcard receipts evidencing receipt by the Patent Office.

CONCLUSION

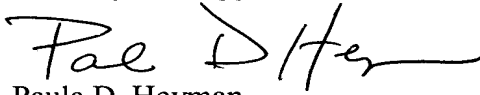
Applicant has now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the Claims 1-12 as amended.

An extension of one (1) month is requested and a Notification of Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 with the appropriate fee of \$110 is attached herewith.

Applicant believes no further fee is due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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